weaknesses and to strengthen them to avoid recurrence of such discrepancies in future.

Commissioning of Advanced Reactor Using Thorium as Fuel

*168. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an advanced type of heavy water reactor has been designed by the Indian scientists;

(b) if so, the extent of electrical energy using Thorium as fuel can be produced by the said reactor; and

(c) by when the proposed reactor is likely to be ready for commissioning and the cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 235 MWe of electrical energy.

(c) Preliminary design of the reactor and the feasibility report is at the conceptual stage. Therefore, the completion of the detailed project report will be possible only by the end of the IX Plan. As such, it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the cost estimate and the timing of the commissioning of the reactor.

Denigration of Sacred Hindu Symbols

*170. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem report appearing in the Asian Age dated. 18.11.99 regarding denigration of sacred symbols and Hindu deities in Australia by depicting them in posters of unmentionable designs; and

(b) If so, what is Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian High Commission had, soon after occurence, taken up the matter with the organisers, to obtain an apology as also to ensuring removal of the offending posters from the Web Gallery. The